

IN THE CLAIMS:

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
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1        50. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film  
2 container provided with an internal spool and an additional spoolless film container having a  
3 length of film a majority of which is wound in the spoolless film container, and which extends  
4 to the first film container, comprising the sequential steps of:

- 5        a)     providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to  
6               a film winding tool;
- 7        b)     in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil  
8               about the tool;
- 9        c)     removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in  
10              the additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;
- 11       d)     before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk  
12              roll to give a trailing end;
- 13       e)     securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

1        51. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 wherein the first film  
2 container is a conventional film patrone having a central spool, at step e) the said trailing film  
3 end being secured to the central spool.

1        52. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 utilizing an additional  
2 container which comprises a housing which is closed by an end cap, the method involving, at  
3 step c), [~~winding the film onto the film winding tool, followed by~~] insertion of the tool having

4 the film wound about the tool end into the additional film container, followed by removal of  
5 the film winding tool from the coil.

1 53. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 52 wherein after removal of  
2 the film winding tool the end cap is secured to the housing.

1 54. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 50 utilizing an additional film  
2 container which comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate to define a  
3 film slot therebetween and have opposed edge regions at which the shell halves are joinable,  
4 the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step b), removing the film  
5 winding tool [~~and~~] followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half shells, with the  
6 film extending from the film slot.

1 55. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 54 wherein the method  
2 includes the step of cutting the film from the bulk roll after it has been wound into the coil and  
3 before it is enclosed in the additional container.

1 56. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 further comprising the step  
2 of attaching a removable clip to secure the first film container and additional film container  
3 together.

1 57. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 50 further comprising the step  
2 of inserting the assembly of first film container and additional film container into a package  
3 which is sealed to contain the film containers.

1 58. (Previously Presented) A film assembly when loaded according to the method of  
2 claim 50.

1        59. (Previously Presented) A camera when loaded with a film assembly according to  
2 claim 58.

1        60. (Currently Amended) A method of loading a film assembly into a camera having a  
2 pair of film chambers arranged on opposite sides of an exposure opening and a camera back  
3 which closes the film chambers comprising the sequential steps of:

4            a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a  
5 film winding tool;

6            b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil  
7 about the tool;

8            c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the  
9 additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;

10           d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll  
11 to give a trailing end;

12           e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container;

13           f) placing the film assembly in the camera with the containers in respective chambers  
14 and closing the camera back.

1        61. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 60 wherein utilizing an  
2 additional film container which comprises a housing formed in two half shells which co-operate  
3 to define a film slot therebetween and have opposed edge regions at which the shell halves are  
4 joinable, the method involving the step of, in a film winding apparatus, after step b), removing  
5 the film winding tool [~~and~~] followed by enclosing the wound coil between the two half shells,  
6 with the film extending from the film slot.

1           62. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 60 wherein the film carries  
2 pre-exposed latent images, the method involving at step f) the additional step of ensuring that  
3 an alignment mark on the film is arranged in alignment with an alignment mark on the camera  
4 so as to ensure correct alignment of user-exposed images and pre-exposed images.

1           63. (New) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container  
2 provided with an internal spool and an additional film container having a length of film a  
3 majority of which is wound in the additional film container, and which extends to the first film  
4 container, the additional film container having a housing free of any film spool and comprising  
5 a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend  
6 wherein each shell half is provided with an edge region which faces the edge region of the  
7 other shell half defining the film slot therebetween and defining a film exit plane, the two shell  
8 halves of the housing being joined along a plane substantially parallel to said exit plane, the  
9 method comprising the sequential steps of:

- 10           a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a  
11 film winding tool;  
12           b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil  
13 about the tool;  
14           c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the  
15 additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;  
16           d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll  
17 to give a trailing end;  
18           e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.

1        64. (New) A method according to claim 63 wherein the shell halves of the additional  
2 film container having securing means providing a snap-fit connection therebetween, step c)  
3 involving connecting the shell halves through said snap-fit connection.

1        65. (New) A method of loading a film assembly comprising a first film container  
2 provided with an intenal spool and an additional film container having a length of film a  
3 majority of which is wound in the additional film container, and which extends to the first film  
4 container, the additional film container having a housing free of any film spool and comprising  
5 a pair of shell halves which together define a film slot through which, in use, film may extend  
6 wherein each shell half is provided with an edge region which faces the edge region of the  
7 other shell half, defining the film slot therebetween and defining a film exit plane, the two shell  
8 halves of the housing being joined along a plane substantially perpendicular to said exit plane  
9 and parallel to the container axis, the method comprising the sequential steps of:

- 10        a) providing a bulk roll of film, withdrawing a free end therefrom and securing to a  
11        film winding tool;  
12        b) in a dark environment rotating the film winding tool to wind the film into a coil  
13        about the tool;  
14        c) removing the wound coil from the film winding tool and enclosing the coil in the  
15        additional film container so that the film extends through a film slot thereof;  
16        d) before or after step c) cutting the film unwound from the bulk roll off said bulk roll  
17        to give a trailing end;  
18        e) securing said trailing end of film to the first film container.



1           66. (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein the shell halves of the additional  
2 film container have securing means providing a snap-fit connection therebetween, step c)  
3 involving connecting the shell halves through said snap-fit connection.